

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating apparatus for heating and image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a flexible rotatable member;

5 a slidable member for sliding contact with an inner surface of said rotatable member;

a back-up member for forming a nip with said slidable member with said rotatable member interposed therebetween, wherein the nip is effective to nip and feed the recording material, and the image is heated by heat supplied from said rotatable member;

10 wherein a projection extended along a longitudinal direction of said rotatable member and provided on such a portion of a sliding surface of said slidable member as is downstream of a center of the sliding surface with respect to a recording material feeding direction in which the recording material is fed, and wherein said projection is effective to provide a maximum pressure in a distribution, with respect to the recording material feeding direction, of pressure applied to the nip.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a portion of the sliding surface upstream of the center with respect to the recording material feeding direction is substantially flat.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said projection has a substantially triangular cross-section.

5        4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said projection has a substantially rectangular cross-section.

10       5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said rotatable member includes a metal layer, and said apparatus of comprises magnetic field generating means for generating heat by electromagnetic induction in the metal layer of said rotatable member.

15       6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is usable with an image forming apparatus for forming a toner image on the recording material, wherein the toner has a Melt Index of 3-50.

20       7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is usable with an image forming apparatus for forming a toner image on the recording material, wherein the toner has a glass transition point of 50-80 Centigrade\*.

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8. An image heating apparatus for heating and image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a flexible rotatable member;

a slidable member for sliding contact with an inner surface of said rotatable member;

5 a back-up member for forming a nip with said slidable member with said rotatable member interposed therebetween, wherein the nip is effective to nip and feed the recording material, and image is heated by heat supplied from said rotatable member;

10 a projection member disposed in a range of the nip and downstream of said slidable member with respect to a recording material feeding direction in which the recording material is fed,

said projection member is effective to provide a maximum pressure in the distribution, with  
15 respect to the recording material feeding direction, of pressure applied to the nip.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said slidable member includes a heater.

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10. An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said projection member has a substantially triangular cross-section.

25 11. An image heating apparatus for heating and image formed on a recording material, comprising:

a flexible rotatable member;

a slidable member for sliding contact with an inner surface of said rotatable member;

5 a back-up member for forming a nip with said slidable member with said rotatable member interposed therebetween, wherein the nip is effective to nip and feed the recording material, and image is heated by heat supplied from said rotatable member;

10 a second rotatable member disposed within the range of said nip and downstream of said slidable member with respect to the recording material feeding direction.

15 wherein said second rotatable member is effective to provide a maximum pressure in the direction, with respect to the recording material feeding direction, of pressure applied to the nip.

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